

Claims

1. A method of operating a computerized forfaiting exchange to develop forfaiting transactions (as defined) for settlement, comprising the following steps:

- providing a web site accessible via the Internet to sellers and buyers using computers;

- providing a counter party selection document on request to a seller or buyer to view at the web site, where the document contains a list of classes of counter parties together with counter party selection entry facilities;

- permitting a seller to identify classes of buyers with whom they will, or will not, develop a forfaiting transaction, by entering selections on the counter party selection document using the counter party selection entry facilities;

- providing an offer document on request to a seller to view at the web site, where the offer document contains the following items:

- a list of classes of asset together with asset selection entry facilities and asset information entry facilities for entry of details of the asset, a list of terms for the offer together with offer selection entry facilities and information entry facilities for entry of details of the offer,

- a list of offer documents to accompany the offer together with offer document selection entry facilities and offer document attachment facilities for attaching copies of offer documents,

- a list of undertakings for the seller to make together with undertaking selection entry facilities and undertaking document attachment facilities for attaching copies of undertaking documents;

- permitting the seller to create an instance of the offer document, by:

- identifying the asset to be offered by using the asset selection entry facilities and asset information entry facilities,

- identifying the terms for the offer by using the offer selection entry facilities and offer information entry facilities,

- identifying the offer documents to accompany the offer by using the offer document selection entry facilities and offer document attachment facilities,

- identifying the undertakings to be made by using the undertaking selection entry facilities and undertaking document attachment facilities;

permitting the seller to submit an instance of the offer document, so that it becomes available to view by potential buyers from only the classes of buyers identified as being those whom the seller will develop the transaction;

providing a counter offer document on request to a buyer after they have viewed an offer document, where the counter offer document contains counter offer selection and counter offer information entry facilities for entry of variations to an offer document instance;

permitting the buyer to create an instance of the counter offer document by entering selections and information using the counter offer selection and information entry facilities, and to submit the counter offer instance, so that it becomes available to the seller;

providing a counter offer document on request to any party after they have viewed an instance of a counter offer document, where the counter offer document contains counter offer selection and information entry facilities for entry of variations;

permitting the party to create an instance of the counter offer document by entering selections and information using the counter offer selection and information entry facilities, and to submit the counter offer instance, so that it becomes available to the counter party;

2. A method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of repeating the last two steps.

3. A method according to claim 1, where the document available at the web site contains electronic links to independent sources of financial information.

4. A method according to claim 1, where the document available at the web site contains electronic links to standardized forms of documents, such as asset defining documents used to support instances of the offer document.

5. A method according to claim 1, where the document available at the web site contains electronic links to standardized forms of undertaking documents.

6. A method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of the exchange providing on-line assistance in completing the process.

7. A method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of the exchange providing an asset screening document for use by potential buyers to select the types of asset they wish to view, and not view.

8. A computerized forfaiting exchange, comprising:

a web site accessible via the Internet to sellers and buyers using computers;

a database associated with the web site and storing:

a counter party selection document, where the document contains a list of classes of counter parties together with counter party selection entry facilities;

an offer document, where the offer document contains the following items:

a list of classes of asset together with asset selection entry facilities and asset information entry facilities for entry of details of the asset, a list of terms for the offer together with offer selection entry facilities and offer information entry facilities for entry of details of the offer,

a list of offer documents to accompany the offer together with offer document selection entry facilities and offer document attachment facilities for attaching copies of offer documents,

a list of undertakings for the seller to make together with undertaking selection entry facilities and undertaking document attachment facilities for attaching copies of undertaking documents;

a counter offer document containing counter offer selection and information entry facilities;

a processor associated with the web site and the database and operable to retrieve a document from the database to view at the web site;

the processor being further operable on request either to permit the entry of selections and information to create instances of documents on-line;

the processor being further operable to permit viewing of instances of offer documents by potential buyers, depending upon the selections and entries made by the seller in counter party selection document.

9. A computerized forfaiting exchange according to claim 8, further comprising a printing facility operable on request to print an offer document for use off-line.

10. A method of operating a computerized forfaiting exchange to facilitate a forfaiting transaction, comprising the steps of:

providing an offer document on request to a seller to view at the web site, where the offer document contains the following items:

a list of classes of asset together with asset selection entry facilities and asset information entry facilities for entry of details of the asset, a link to an independent source of financial information,

a list of terms for the offer together with offer selection entry facilities and information entry facilities for entry of details of the offer,

a list of offer documents to accompany the offer together with offer document selection entry facilities and offer document attachment facilities for attaching copies of offer documents,

links to standardized forms of offer documents,

a list of undertakings for the seller to make together with undertaking selection entry facilities and undertaking document attachment facilities for attaching copies of undertaking documents,

links to standardized forms of undertaking documents; and

permitting the seller to download the offer document.